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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 182
By Brown

A RESOLUTION concerning Tennessee's system of juvenile justice.

WHEREAS, at least twenty-five years have elapsed since the General Assembly's most recent, systematic review of Tennessee's juvenile justice system; and

WHEREAS, during such time, a variety of societal forces have emerged to increasingly jeopardize the health, safety, and well-being of Tennessee children and youth and to forcefully challenge the efficacy of Tennessee's juvenile code, courts, and delinquency prevention, rehabilitation, and correctional programs; and

WHEREAS, large segments of Tennesseans now perceive juvenile crime as both a significant, personal threat and a serious societal problem; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has attempted to deal with actual and perceived problems within Tennessee's juvenile justice system in a piecemeal manner as specific issues arose; and

WHEREAS, at this time it is appropriate for this body to examine such issues in-depth; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That this body hereby directs the Select Committee on Children and Youth to perform a comprehensive review and evaluation of Tennessee's system of juvenile justice,

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including an examination of the efficacy of juvenile delinquency statutes, juvenile courts, as well as juvenile delinquency prevention, rehabilitation and correctional programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all agencies and entities of state and local government are hereby directed, upon request of the committee, to cooperate fully with and to assist the committee in such undertaking.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That for purposes of the conduct of hearings and in deliberation concerning findings and recommendations, that the Select Committee on Children and Youth be joined by two (2) members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to be appointed by the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee; one (1) members of the House Judiciary Committee to be appointed by the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee; and one (1) member of the House Children and Family Affairs Committee to be appointed by the Chair of the House Children and Family Affairs Committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Select Joint Committee on Children and Youth shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the One-Hundredth General Assembly no later than January 13, 1998.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Commissioner of Children's Services, the Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of Human Services, the Executive Director of the Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the Executive Director of the Commission on Children and Youth.